Since receiving his commission from Central Washington University's Army ROTC program, COL Allen has served in tactical assignments in the Federal Republic of Germany, Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Riley, Kansas. His command assignments include B Company and HHC, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, and battalion command with the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment. Additionally, COL Allen has served as a Maneuver Captains Career Course small group instructor and course manager.

COL Allen's operational deployments include service in Operation Joint Guard, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Inherent Resolve.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Army Meritorious Service Medal (three oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (two oak leaf clusters), the Combat Action Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Ranger Tab. COL Allen holds Masters Degrees from Kansas State University, the School of Advanced Military Studies, and the U.S. Army War College.